

*Seaham*

**Seaham**  
**Urban District Council**




**ANNUAL**  
**REPORT**

FOR 1952

OF THE

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**



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**Urban District Council**

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ANNUAL  
REPORT

FOR 1952

OF THE

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

# Seaham Urban District Council.

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Chairman : Councillor O. BLACKWELL

Chairman of Health Committee : Councillor J. COATES

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## Members of the Council :

Councillor BELL

„ \*BLACKWELL  
„ BRAMMER  
„ BROWN  
„ BURROWS  
„ COATES  
„ CURRAN  
„ CURTIS  
„ \*DAWSON  
„ \*FAULKNER  
„ \*FLETCHER  
„ GASCOIGNE  
„ \*GOODWIN  
„ HUTTON  
„ \*JOBLING

Councillor\*LOWERY

„ LOWES  
„ MARRIN  
„ McCUTCHEON  
„ McLAUCHLAN  
„ \*MORELAND  
„ MORRIS  
„ OLIVER  
„ \*PEARDON  
„ ROBINSON  
„ SPENCE  
„ STRONG  
„ TAYLOR  
„ THOMPSON  
„ TODD  
„ WILLIAMS

\* Members of Health Committee.

## Officials of Health Department :

Medical Officer of Health :

WM. JAMES PEDEN, L.R.C.P.I. & L.M., L.R.C.S.I. & L.M.,  
D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector—BATESON TURNER, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.  
C.S.I.

Sanitary Inspector—Vacant.

Engineer and Surveyor—A. M. SMITH, M.I.M. & C.Y.E., A.I.A.A.

Clerk in Health Department—Miss E. LAWSON

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS  
of the  
SEAHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Herewith is my Annual Report for the year 1952.

I am pleased to inform you that there has been no serious epidemic to record.

Diphtheria, which at one time assumed proportions which gave cause for alarm, has now been reduced to a relatively minor form. The immunisations carried out in previous years against this disease has no doubt helped in producing a satisfactory result.

Tuberculosis of the Pulmonary and Non-pulmonary type, with emphasis on the former, has been greatly reduced. The increased amount of X-ray work, the advent of new effective drugs, together with the continued policy of the Council in providing separate accommodation for those suffering from the infective type has, I would say, definitely helped to bring about the diminishing incidence of this disease.

Poliomyelitis or Infantile Paralysis showed no evidence of assuming epidemic form. Four cases only were notified and only two of these were confirmed. The continued improvement in the treatment of the parts in this condition has improved the outlook considerably.

Deaths from Cancer again show a slight increase, and one awaits with hope that in the near future some adequate means will be found to combat this disease which takes such a heavy toll on life.

Nothing has been done so far in England to make atmospheric pollution less, but it is hoped that soon active measures will establish themselves to lessen this nuisance.

The rat menace did not assert itself, and the Port Traffic which consists mainly of coal shipments has not given any trouble.

I extend to the Chairman, Members of the Council, and Staff, my thanks and appreciation for their support.

WM. JAMES PEDEN,  
Medical Officer of Health.



## GENERAL STATISTICS

(Figures in brackets refer to previous year).

Civilian Population: 25,660 (25,920).

Area: 2,467 statute acres.

Density of Population per acre: 10.4.

Number of inhabited houses: 6,569 (6,569).

Estimated number of separate tenancies: 7,238 (7,238).

Rateable value: £109,503 (£106,822).

The sum represented by the Penny rate: £401 (£401).

## VITAL STATISTICS

### Live Births.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
No. of Legitimate Births	214 (238)	228 (221)	442 (459)
No. of Illegitimate Births	11 (5)	8 (7)	19 (12)
Total Live Births	225 (243)	236 (228)	461 (471)

### Live Birth Rate.

Live Births per 1,000 estimated population: 17.73 (18.17).

### Still Births.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
No. of Still Births	4 (4)	7 (9)	11 (13)

### Still Birth Rate.

23.86 (26.85) per 1,000 total births.

### Infantile Mortality.

Death rate of all infants under one year per 1,000 live births  
births: 26.03 (21.23).

Death rate of legitimate infants under one year per 1,000  
live births: 23.86 (19.1).

Death rate of illegitimate infants under one year per 1,000  
live births: 2.16 (2.1).

## DEATHS.

Total rate per 1,000 population: 10.65 (11.26).

Maternal Mortality rate: Nil (2.06).

	Male.	Female.	Total
Deaths from Whooping Cough ...	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Deaths from Diphtheria ... ..	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Deaths from Pulmonary T.B. ...	3 (4)	2 (4)	5 (8)
Deaths from Non-Pulmonary T.B.	0 (1)	0 (1)	0 (2)
Deaths from Syphilitic Diseases ...	1 (1)	1 (1)	2 (2)
Deaths from Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ... ..	0 (1)	0 (1)	0 (2)
Deaths from Acute Poliomyelitis...	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Deaths from Influenza ... ..	0 (1)	1 (5)	1 (6)
Deaths from Measles ... ..	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Deaths from Cancer ... ..	32 (22)	18 (24)	50 (46)
Deaths from Meningococcal Infec- tions ... ..	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Deaths from vascular lesions of nervous system ... ..	20 (24)	20 (22)	40 (46)
Deaths from Heart Diseases ...	38 (63)	39 (38)	77(101)
Deaths from Other Diseases of Circulatory System ... ..	6 (4)	5 (5)	11 (9)
Deaths from Bronchitis ... ..	8 (5)	2 (5)	10 (10)
Deaths from Leukæmia, Aleukæmia	0 (1)	2 (0)	2 (1)
Deaths from Pneumonia and other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	3 (5)	3 (4)	6 (9)
Deaths from Diabetes ... ..	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (1)
Deaths from Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ... ..	2 (1)	3 (0)	5 (1)
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhœa ... ..	0 (0)	1 (2)	1 (2)
Deaths from Nephritis & Nephrosis	1 (2)	1 (1)	2 (3)
Deaths from Premature Birth and congenital birth injuries and diseases ... ..	10 (9)	11 (17)	21 (26)
Deaths from Hyperplasia of Prostate ... ..	3 (4)	0 (0)	3 (4)
Deaths from Suicide ... ..	0 (1)	1 (2)	1 (3)
Deaths from Motor Vehicle Acci- dents and all other accidents ...	6 (7)	1 (2)	7 (9)
Deaths from Homicide and Opera- tions of War ... ..	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (1)
Deaths from all causes ... ..	133(157)	111(135)	244(292)

**TABLE I.**  
**Vital Statistics for 1952 and certain previous**  
**years.**

Year	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1900	42.0	21.1	174
1910	36.4	14.8	122
1920	35.2	16.3	124
1930	23.0	10.5	80
1937	17.2	10.3	82.9
1938	16.9	10.6	66.6
1939	16.3	10.6	78
1940	18.2	12.6	56.9
1941	17.6	12.2	60.4
1942	18.1	11.3	49.8
1943	19.86	13.5	59.3
1944	20.8	11.2	73.6
1945	21.5	10.0	56.3
1946	23.4	11.1	46.1
1948	22.09	9.95	45.75
1950	19.12	10.65	42.25
1951	18.17	11.26	21.23
1952	17.73	10.65	26.03



TABLE II.

Vital Statistics for 1951 and 1952

	England and Wales		Smaller towns (Population 25,000-50,000)		County Rate		Seaham	
	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952	1951	1952
Birth Rate ...	15.5	15.3	16.7	15.5	17.6	16.9	18.17	17.73
Death Rate ...	12.5	11.3	12.5	11.2	12.4	12.1	11.26	10.65
I. M. Rate ...	29.6	27.6	27.6	25.8	42	31.2	21.23	26.03

**SUMMARY OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES  
AND TUBERCULOSIS**

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Figures for the year 1952 are herewith supplied.

## TABLE III.

CASES NOTIFIED AT THE FOLLOWING AGES:—

[illegible]

TABLE IV.  
Monthly Notifications of Infectious Diseases during 1952.

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever ..	3	—	1	—	1	1	2	—	—	5	9	4	26
Diphtheria ..	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	6
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	1	4
Measles ..	45	17	28	16	9	6	12	12	4	—	2	3	154
Whooping Cough ..	1	—	3	2	5	3	1	12	11	17	43	30	128
Pneumonia ..	5	4	1	1	5	—	1	2	1	4	3	6	33
Meningitis..	1	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	7
Ophthal. Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	2
Ac. Poliomyelitis ... (Paralytic)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	3
Ac. Poliomyelitis ... (Non-Paralytic)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1

**TABLE V.**  
**Infectious Disease and Tuberculosis Cases**  
**notified during past five years.**

(Figures in parenthesis indicate number of Deaths).

Disease	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Scarlet Fever ...	58 (0)	24 (0)	10 (0)	24 (0)	26 (0)
Diphtheria ...	27 (0)	8 (1)	25 (0)	6 (0)	6 (0)
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1 (0)	1 (0)	1 (0)	4 (0)	1 (0)
Erysipelas ...	18 (0)	8 (0)	3 (0)	4 (0)	4 (0)
Meningococcal Infec'n	2 (0)	0 (0)	4 (0)	1 (0)	7 (0)
Polioomyelitis ...	0 (0)	0 (0)	9 (1)	3 (0)	4 (0)
Measles ...	637 (1)	76 (0)	855 (1)	549 (0)	154 (0)
Whooping Cough ...	163 (1)	62 (1)	195 (2)	30 (0)	128 (0)
Pneumonia ...	47 (9)	43 (15)	58 (7)	52 (6)	33 (1)
Food Poisoning ...	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	4 (0)	0 (0)
Oph. Neonatorum ...	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (0)
T.B.—Pulmonary . .	45 (14)	33 (10)	21 (11)	36 (8)	40 (4)
T.B —Non-Pulmonary	8 (2)	7 (2)	6 (0)	6 (2)	7 (1)



**TABLE VI**  
**TUBERCULOSIS.**

Age Periods	NOTIFICATIONS				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1 ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5-10 ..	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
10-15 ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-20 ..	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-25 ..	3	6	1	1	—	1	—	—
25-35 ..	6	4	—	2	—	—	—	—
35-45 ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55 ..	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
55-65 ..	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
65 upwards	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	24	16	3	4	1	3	1	—

## GENERAL SANITATION

- (1) **ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES.**—109 complaints have been investigated by the Sanitary Inspector and the undermentioned sanitary defects and nuisances were dealt with:—

Dwelling Houses and Schools :					
Foul Conditions	...	...	...	...	42
Structural Defects	...	...	...	...	51
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	—
Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	—
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	—
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	—
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	—
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	—
Ashpits and Privies	...	...	...	...	1
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	...	...	...	...	2
Waterclosets	...	...	...	...	206
Defective Yard Paving	...	...	...	...	—
House Drainage :—					
Defective Traps	...	...	...	...	—
No Disconnection from Sewers	...	...	...	...	—
Other Faults	...	...	...	...	63
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	3
Pigsties	...	...	...	...	1
Animals Improperly Kept	...	...	...	...	—
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	—
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	...	...	7
Other Nuisances	...	...	...	...	399
TOTAL					775

- (2) **DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.**—Clothing and bedding are disinfected and disinfested at the Health Department Depot in Cornelia Terrace, by a Thresh type disinfector. For disinfection of houses, etc., after infectious diseases, Formaldehyde liquid, Vapour Tablets or Killgerm liquid disinfectants are used.
- (3) **DISINFESTATION AND ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.**—At the Depot the disinfection of bedding is done by the Thresh disinfector and, if necessary, liquid and powder disinfectants are used as detailed in previous column.

In house disinfection the most suitable disinfectant is employed, namely: (i) Powder D.D.T. (Kolium Co. and Killgerm Co.); (ii) Insecticide (Kolium Co., British Fumigants and Killgerm); (iii) Fumigation (Fumex, Kolium and Killgerm Sulphur Blocks and Formaldehyde). Disinfectants are supplied to adults free of charge.

- (4) **DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.**—There are a few isolated cases which are not on the water carriage system. Sewerage is carried out to sea at the east end of the town by the combined system. Additions are continually being made on account of housing progress, and at the present time the existing system is working efficiently.
- (5) **FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.** — No complaints have been dealt with and further improvements have been made by the employers for the benefit of the employee. When suggestions have been made there has been no difficulty in having them carried out.
- (6) **HOUSING.**—Slow progress is made with improvements to property owing to shortage of labour and materials, but efforts are made to keep the properties in a reasonable state of repair. Overcrowding is being alleviated by the Council's re-housing programme. Families with a member suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, families overcrowded and families without homes have been rehoused in Council properties. Exchanges of houses are permitted with overcrowded and non-overcrowded tenants when both are agreeable.
- (7) **MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.**—1,002 visits have been made to stores, shops and the Meat Depot for the inspection of meat and other foods.

**Food Condemned :—**

Beef 589½ lbs.; Mutton 70½ lbs.; Pork 100½ lbs. & 10 tins; Danish Pork 31 tins; Veal 6¼ lbs. & 21 tins; Jellied Veal 16¼ lbs. & 24 tins; Pressed Pork 6 tins; Pork Luncheon Meat 100 tins; Cooked Ham 135½ lbs. & 15 tins; Stewed Steak 69 tins; Luncheon Meat 12 lbs. & 102 tins; Cooked Shoulder 6 tins; Minced Beef Loaf 18 tins; Corned Beef 1 tin; Veal & Ham Loaf 1 tin; Meat & Cereal 1 tin; Tongue 4 tins; Sheeps Tongue 1 tin; Spam 1¼ lbs. & 1 tin; Bacon 157 lbs.; Rabbit 3 tins; Nor meat 4 tins; Beef Steak Pudding 3 tins; Steak & Kidney Pudding 2 tins; Sausage 97 lbs. 2 ozs.; Vienna Sausage 22 tins; Meat Paste 6 jars; Beans 143 tins; Peas 286 tins; Carrots 3 tins; Soups 17 tins; Broth 4 tins; Mixed Veg. 1 tin; Spinach 5 tins; Spaghetti 9 tins; Tomatoes 573 tins; Beet-root 10 jars; Herrings 1 tin; Lobster 6 tins; Kippers 98 lbs.; Salmon 27 tins; Crab 18 tins; Pilchards 7 tins; Sardines 8 tins; Fish Paste 6 jars; Sauce 8 btles.; Pickles 1



jar; Cheese 38 boxes & 39½ lbs.; Butter 58¼ lbs.; Milk 36 tins; Eggs 94; Madeira Cakes 10; Swiss Rolls 2; Cream Cakes 46; Chocolate Biscuits 55; Biscuits 5 lbs.; Jams 30 jars; Marmalade 3 jars; Coffee 3 tins; Flour 6 lbs.; Gravy Salt 12 pkts.; Mincemeat 4 jars; Dessert Powder 123 pkts.; Chocolate Bars 20; Nougat Bars 72; Sweets 35¼ lbs.; Tapioca 7 lbs.; Macaroni 44 lbs.; Chocolate Drops 42 pkts.; Lemon Crystals 83 btles.; Coconut Ice 3 bars; Post Toasties 3 pkts.; Cornflakes 32 pkts.; Blanc Mange 6 pkts.; Custard Powder 48 pkts.; Breakfast Spread 1 tin; Brisling 3 tins; Cake Flour 4 pkts.; Walnuts 12 lbs.; Fruit Pies 32; Apple Puddings 2; Figs 2 tins; Raisins 27½ lbs.; Dates 4 lbs.; Cherries 42 tins; Strawberries 14 tins; Plums 54 tins; Gooseberries 4 tins; Bilberries 13 tins; Grapes 2 tins; Pineapple 18 tins 2 jars; Grapefruit 11 tins; Quartered Apple 13 tins; Oranges 10 tins; Pears 16 tins; Blackcurrants 2 tins; Prunes 13 lbs. & 5 tins; Peaches 5 tins; Greengages 1 tin; Damsons 18 tins; Apple 21 tins; Rhubarb 1 tin.

- (8) MILK.—No complaints have been received regarding the milk supply and all retailers are now supplying milk in bottles.
- (9) FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.—There are four firms registered for the manufacture of Ice Cream. The factories are in a satisfactory condition and samples of ice cream taken have been found to be satisfactory. Milk samples have also been taken and found to be satisfactory. Samples taken of other commodities were also found to be satisfactory.
- (10) PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY.—There is no change in the administration of the Port Sanitary Authority.

Notification of illness on vessels using the Port are notified to the Custom Officials who notify the Health Department and the local doctors.

If cases of venereal disease are reported, action is also taken by the local doctors and if necessary hospital treatment is provided.

- (11) RATS & MICE DISINFESTATION.—A fully qualified Rodent Operative deals with all complaints, and the sug-

gested methods of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries are adopted.

The sewers are disinfested at half-yearly periods and no major infestations have been detected.

It is pleasing to note that there are no major infestations in the area.

- (12) REFUSE & SALVAGE.—The total amount of refuse collected during the year 1952 was 20,440 tons. Controlled tipping is in operation and the tip is situated in the South-eastern part of the area and Dawdon Dene. The collections of salvage is carried out by the Surveyor's Department, the approximate total figures being:—

					T.	C.	Q.
Paper	...	...	...	...	62	2	0
Scrap Metal		...	...	...	12	6	1
Textiles	...	...	...	...		4	3
Non-ferrous Metals		...	...	...	15	2	1
Newsprint		...	...	...	1	3	0
Books and Magazines	...		...	...	1	2	2



Amount of Shipping Entering the Port during the Year.

	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number reported to be defective	Number of Vessels on which defects were remedied	Number of Vessels on which defects were found and reported to Ministry of Transport Surveyors	Number of Vessels reported as having or having had, during the voyage, infectious disease on board.
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector				
Foreign { Steamers * Motor Sailing Fishing	14	6922	—	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	81	38035	—	—	"	"	"	"
	Nil	Nil	—	—	"	"	"	"
	Nil	Nil	—	—	"	"	"	"
Total Foreign ...	95	44957	—	3	"	"	"	"
Coastwise { Steamers * Motor Sailing... Fishing	828	523,223	—	17	"	"	"	"
	288	235,104	—	—	"	"	"	"
	Nil	Nil	—	—	"	"	"	"
	Nil	Nil	—	—	"	"	"	"
Total Coastwise ...	1116	758,327	—	17	"	"	"	"
Total Foreign and Coastwise	1211	803,284	—	20	"	"	"	"

\* Includes mechanically propelled vessels other than steamers.

# Factories Act, 1937 & 1948

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	1	37	105	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	—	—	—	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority *(excluding out-workers' premises) ..	3	—	—	—	—	3
TOTAL ..	—	37	105	—	—	—

\* i.e. Electrical Stations (Section 103(1)), Institutions. (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

## 2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)...	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	9	2	2	—	1	—	9
(a) Insufficient ...	10	—	—	—	—	—	10
(b) Unsuitable or defective...	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
(c) Not separate for sexes...	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...		—	—	—	—	—	
TOTAL...	60	2	2	—	1	—	60







